

IN THE DRAWINGS

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Applicant proposes to amend Figs. 8 and 9 as indicated in the attached Drawing Change Authorization Request submitted herewith.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 6, paragraph number 0038, please replace "FIG. 1" with -- FIG. 3--.

Page 14, paragraph number 0078 should read

-- While the invention thus far has been described in the context of signal quality estimation, in particular in cdma2000 fast forward power control, it should be appreciated that other operations may also involve noise estimate calculations, and which may or may not deal with estimates where the signal strength and the noise are estimated simultaneously, but separately. In addition, while the estimates of the useful signal produced by fingers in the receiver are assumed to be correlated, noise estimates may or may not be correlated depending on relative finger positions. --

Page 16, paragraph number 0086 should read

The noise estimation techniques relevant to finger merge described herein may be implemented in hardware, software, firmware, or a combination thereof. For a hardware design, the noise estimator operation may be implemented within a digital signal processor (DSP), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a processor, a microprocessor, a controller, a microcontroller, a field programmable gate array (FPGA), a programmable logic device, other electronic unit, or any combination thereof.